REMARKS

Claims 5 and 7-8 have been amended. New claims 9-12 are presented for examination. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The applicants have amended claim 7 to recite a program stored on a non-transitory computer-readable medium as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn.

Claim 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0161615 to Tsumagari *et al.* (hereafter: "Tsumagari"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Before discussing the above amendments and the cited reference, the applicants will briefly discuss the background of the present application. Errors occur frequently while designing programs associated with a Java application. Such errors include system hang-ups and screen blackouts, which are caused by occurrence of exception processing to be performed by the application as a result of events unexpected by the application. More specifically, a Java application is event-driven, and it is necessary to register events that serve as requirements for driving the application at the time of programming. If a man-made caused error (e.g., failure to register a complete set of events) is made during the programming, then the hang-ups and blackouts will occur due to such a failure to register the complete set of events.

In view of the above problems, as well as other concerns, the present application

introduces a technique relating to error handling upon alternatively causing a Java application to perform interactive control by a menu of DVD-Video.

As recited in amended claim 5, the playback apparatus includes *inter alia* an event manager operable to judge whether or not to cause the application to process an event generated in response to a user operation, and when a result of the judgment is affirmative, further operable to output one of key events so as to cause the application to process the event, and when the result of the judgment is negative, cause the playback control engine unit to process an operation corresponding to the event.

Claims 5 and 7-8 have been amended to recite the novel embodiment, in which the application is associated with event registration information indicating whether or not each of the key events has been registered therewith, and any key event that is indicated as having been registered with the event registration information can be processed by the associated application. The judgment by the event manager is made by, when the event is generated in response to the user operation, judging whether or not the event has been registered with the event registration information associated with the application that is executed by the virtual machine. For example, as described on pg. 38, lines 4-20, the event listner manager 39 can distribute an event to a default operation manager 40 when the result of the judgment is negative. Accordingly, even when the application associated with a set of events contains a programming error, the operation manager can perform playback control on the playback control engine unit.

Tsumagari describes a DVD video player for playing back DVD video as well as enhanced navigation (ENAV) contents 30. The player includes an ENAV engine 300 which includes an event generation-command/property processor 320 for outputting a user event control signal to a user event controller 310 and an ENAV interpreter 330 for interpreting control

8

information in the ENAV contents 30. As shown in Figs. 6 and 14, when a menu button is pressed (ST94), if the ENAV contents 30 are determined not to include an ENAV menu (ST98), the processor 320 output as control signal as a full video mode that means output of video and audio data of the DVD-Video playback engine. If the ENAV contents 30 are determined to include an ENAV menu (ST98), the processor 320 executes a process of the ENAV menu in accordance with an ENAV command from the ENAV interpreter.

Although a judgment is performed here based upon the presence of the ENAV menu in the ENAV contents 30, Tsumagari fails to disclose

That is, although Tsumagari describes executing the ENAV menu when it is determined that the ENAV contents 30 include ENAV menu contents (see paragraph [0194]), Tsumagari does not disclose performing the judgment based upon whether or not the event has been registered with the event registration information associated with the application that is executed by the virtual machine as called for in amended claims 5 and 7-8. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 5 and 7-8, as well as dependent claim 6, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), be withdrawn.

New claims 9-12 are presented for examination. Support for new claims 9-12 can be found on, for example, pg. 34, lines 4-18. According to new claims 9-12, the playback control performed by the playback control engine unit involves audio video (AV) functions that include play, stop, forward play, backward play, skip, pause on, and still off, and the event indicates that a user has operated one of keys that are respectively allocated to the AV functions.

In Tsumagari, the event shown in Figs. 6 and 14 is a menu call. Accordingly, Tsumagari fails to disclose that the event indicates that a user has operated one of keys that are respectively allocated to the AV functions that include play, stop, forward play, backward play, skip, pause

on, and still off, as a target of judgment. Further, new claims 9-12 depend from claims 5 and 7-8.

Therefore, new claims 9-12 should also be in condition for allowance for at least the above-

mentioned reasons with respect to claims 5 and 7-8.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for

allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to

patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kerry S. Culpepper Reg. #45,672/
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Kerry S. Culpepper
Reg. No. 45,672

Panasonic Patent Center
1130 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-912-3800
Fax: 202-912-0774
Customer No. 42212